

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A process for preparing isocyanates ~~by~~ comprising reacting amines with phosgene, wherein the phosgene feed stream to the reaction has a hydrogen chloride content of from 1.3% to 15% by mass.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): ~~[[A]]~~ The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the phosgene feed stream is mixed with an amine feed stream in a mixing time of from 0.0001 seconds to 5 seconds.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): ~~[[A]] The process as claimed in either of claims 1 and 2~~ claim 1 for preparing TDI, m-MDI, p-MDI, HDI, IPDI, H6TDI, H12MDI, XDI, t-CHDI and NDI, wherein said isocyanates are selected from the group consisting of tolylene diisocyanate, monomeric methylenedi(phenyl isocyanate), polymeric methylenedi(phenyl isocyanate), hexamethylene diisocyanate, isophorone diisocyanate (IPDI), diisocyanatomethylcyclohexane, di(isocyanatocyclohexyl)methane, xylylene diisocyanate, diisocyanatocyclohexane and naphthyl diisocyanate.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): ~~[[A]] The process as claimed in any of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1, wherein the reaction is carried out in a temperature range from 25 to 260°C and at absolute pressures of from 0.9 bar to 400 bar, with ~~the~~ a molar ratio of phosgene to amino groups ~~used~~ being from 1.1:1 to 12:1.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): ~~The use of phosgene having a hydrogen chloride content of from 1.3% to 15% by mass~~ A process for preparing isocyanates by phosgenation of primary amines, which comprises reacting phosgene having a hydrogen chloride content of from 1.3% to 15% by mass with a primary amine.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The ~~use~~ process as claimed in claim 5, wherein the preparation of isocyanates is carried out in a continuous process and the reaction of phosgene with the primary amine occurs in the liquid phase.

Claim 7 (Original): A production plant for preparing isocyanates by reacting primary amines with phosgene, which comprises an amine reservoir, a phosgene reservoir, a mixing apparatus, a reactor and a work-up apparatus, wherein the phosgene feed stream fed into the mixing apparatus from the phosgene reservoir has a hydrogen chloride content of from 1.3% to 15% by mass.